

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present patent application is respectfully requested. After entry of the present amendment, the only claims that remain are allowable claims rewritten in independent form, and claims depending therefrom.

Claims 1-9 and 12-20 are pending in this application. Claims 10 and 11 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9 and 13-20 stand as rejected. Claims 3, 8, and 12 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. By this amendment, claims 2-8, 12, and 13 are amended and claims 1, 10, 11, and 17-20 are canceled.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9, 13-16, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 6,019,678 to Takahashi. In response, allowable claims 3 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 and 4-7 have been amended to depend from amended claim 3 and claim 12 has been amended to depend from amended claim 8.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that all of the claims in this case are now in condition for allowance and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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